

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EA-07 OPIC-03 AID-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 /089 W

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R 261030Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9310

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV CF CU UR CH US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FRG AMBASSADOR TO CONGO

REF: STATE 202342

1. DCM AND POLITICAL OFFICER MET AUG 21 WITH FRG AMB TO CONGO FISCHER, WHO WAS PAYING FAREWELL CALL IN KINSHASA BEFORE DEPARTING BRAZZAVILLE FOR BONN NEXT MONTH. FISCHER'S COMMENTS INCLUDED FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. CUBANS: NO EVIDENCE OF TROOP BUILD-UP. CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE NOTICEABLE ONLY IN POINTE NOIRE, WHERE APPROX 16 PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO CONSULATE PURCHASE SUPPLIES FOR TROOPS IN CABINDA. CUBAN EMBASSY STAFF IN BRAZZAVILLE EXPANDED FROM ONE TO SIXTEEN DURING ANGOLAN ESCALATION, BUT NOW APPEARS TO BE THINNING OUT AGAIN.

B. SOVIETS: DESPITE IMPROVED RELATIONS AS RESULT OF ANGOLAN CONFLICT, SOVIET AMB SUFFICIENTLY FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF CONGOLESE COOPERATION TO DEPART BRAZZAVILLE ON LEAVE SHORTLY BEFORE CONGOLESE CELEBRATION OF "TROIS GLORIEUSES". ANNIVERSARY OF OVERTHROW OF YOLOU REGIME. APPROX 50 SOVIET MIG INSTRUCTORS AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL ARE AT THE BRAZZAVILLE AIR BASE, WHERE THEY ARE SCRUTINIZED BY 25 FRENCH AIR FORCE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS. SOVIETS THUS FAR HAVE DELIVERED ONE MIG-15 AND APPROX SEVEN MIG-17'S TO CONGOLESE.

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C. CHINESE: ELABORATE DEPARTURE CEREMONIES ORGANIZED BY CONGO-

LESE FOR PRC AMB INDICATED CLEARLY THAT CHINESE RETAIN THEIR FAVORED POSITION.

D. CABINDA: CONGOLESE, CONCERNED ABOUT FIGHTING ALONG THEIR BORDER, ONCE AGAIN FAVOR CABINDAN AUTONOMY.

E. CONGOLESE: THE GOVT'S FINANCIAL STRAITS WERE EVIDENT IN CONTRAST BETWEEN LAVISH SCALE OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN CHAMPAGNE AND WHISKY FLOWED, AND THIS MONTH'S FESTIVITIES FEATURING BEER AND SOFT DRINKS. THE LOCAL PRIMUS BREWERY ADDED TO THE GLOOM BY REFUSING TO EXTEND THE GOVT FURTHER CREDIT, REQUIRING SUBSTITUTION OF THE LESS ESTEEMED KRONENBOURG BREW FROM POINTE NOIRE. TO MEET ITS PAYROLL, THE GOVT HAS RAIDED THE TREASURY OF THE STATE-RUN INSURANCE FIRM, RENDERING THE LATTER INCAPABLE OF PAYING CLAIMS OR REINSURANCE FEES. THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE FOR HOPE IN CURRENT REGIME REMAINS PRIME MINISTER GOMA, A COMPETENT AND PRAGMATIC MANAGER WHO MERITS OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

F. US-CONGOLESE RELATIONS: LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT NGOUABI REGIME EAGER TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO GOOD RELATIONS. ON CONTRARY, REGIME NEEDS US AS IMPERIALIST WHIPPING BOY TO DISTRACT PEOPLE FROM ECONOMIC WOES. CURRENT PENURY ALSO PRECLUDES PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO MOBIL AND TEXACO, ALTHOUGH CONGOLESE WILLING TO DISCUSS ISSUE OF EVENTUAL REPARATION. FISCHER HAD NOT YET RECEIVED FROM BONN LATEST DEPT MESSAGE (REFTEL) TO CONGOLESE ON THIS SUBJECT.

G. US PROPERTY: AS REQUESTED, FISCHER WILL TRY TO LEARN COST OF APPRAISAL OF PROPERTY IN BRAZZAVILLE. HE CAUTIONED THAT REAL ESTATE MARKET UNUSUALLY SOFT AT PRESENT.

2. FISCHER ALSO PASSED LETTER TO AMB CUTLER IN WHICH HE REGRETS HAVING BEEN UNABLE TO IMPROVE US-CONGOLESE RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FISCHER WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER RESURGENCE OF ANTI-US RHETORIC IN BRAZZAVILLE, HE REMAINS CONVINCED OF NEED FOR RESUMPTION OF US-CONGOLESE RELATIONS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE NGOUABI REGIME WITH MORE WESTERN ALTERNATIVES TO HEAVY COMMUNIST EMBRACE.
CUTLER

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